

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the use of alpha (2) macroglobulin (“ α 2M”) receptor as a heat shock protein receptor, cells that express the α 2M receptor bound to an HSP, and antibodies and other molecules that bind the α 2M receptor-HSP complex. The invention also relates to screening assays to identify compounds that interact with the α 2M receptor, and modulate the interaction of the α 2M receptor with its ligand, such as HSPs, and methods for using compositions comprising α 2M-receptor sequences for the diagnosis and treatment of immune disorders, proliferative disorders, and infectious diseases.